aspects of public expenditure and policy. The Tenth Plan has initiated action in tying up the concept of Women's Component Plan and gender budgeting exercise to develop gender perspective in planning. The efforts and progress India has achieved with respect to the critical areas on concerns identified by the Beijing Conference is given in the **Platform for Action 10 years after India Country Report,** available in departmental website http://www.wcd.nic.in.

Financial assistance for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

490. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to enhance financial assistance to the State Governments for Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is expected to be provided; and

(c) the financial assistance to be provided to the most populous State of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Enhancement in existing financial assistance to State Governments under Mid-Day Meal Scheme is contingent upon availability of adequate resources. Planning Commission has been approached for a higher outlay for 2006-07.

Absence of school teachers

491. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint survey by Harvard University and World Bank had shown that 25 per cent primary Government school teachers in the country remain absent everyday; and

(b) if so, whether the survey had further shown that 49.5 per cent of them stay away from their classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) A

survey report, undertaken by Harvard University and the World Bank covering 3700 primary schools spread over 20 States in the country, showed that 25% of teachers in government primary schools are absent on a typical day.

(b) No, Sir. The survey reports that at the time of the visit to the schools, of the teachers who were present, 59.5% were found teaching in class; 20% were doing administrative work of were accompanying the surveyor and 20.5% were not taking class or were idle/on a break.

Enrolment of rural girls in Uttaranchal

492. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the enrolment of girls in rural schools had gone down in comparison to urban areas in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some backward villages in the State are still far behind in sending their children to the school's and ensuring quality education for them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures Government would adopt to educate all in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As per information furnished by the Government of Uttaranchal, the enrolment of girls in rural basic education school had not gone down in comparison to urban areas in the State.

About 285 habitations have been identified to provide new primary schools and 781 for establishing Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education. To promote girls education at secondary level, at least 1 Girls High School has been ensured in every development block. Besides, 88 new Government High Schools and 62 Intermediate Colleges have been opened, in current financial year. In addition, 36 clusters have been identified as model clusters to promote girls education in educationally backward blocks under National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL). In educationally backward blocks 13 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya(KGBV) are also running.